

History of the Education of the Deaf At Morganton, 1894-1944

LAW CREATING THE SCHOOL AT MORGANTON

In 1891 the General Assembly passed a law creating the North Carolina School for the Deaf and Dumb: (Chapter 89, Public Laws of North Carolina, Revisal of 1915, Vol. 2, Section 4202, XIX—"Deaf and Dumb"—"Incorporated.") "There shall be maintained a school for the white deaf and dumb children of the state which shall be a corporation under the corporate name of The North Carolina School for the Deaf and Dumb, to be located upon the grounds donated for that purpose near the town of Morganton."

"Such school shall be under the control and management of a board of directors consisting of seven members, who shall be appointed by the Governor and hold their office for the term of six years; said board shall be divided into three classes, the first shall be elected in one thousand and nine hundred and nine, the second class in 1907, the third in 1905, and each class shall thereafter be elected every six years. If any vacancy shall occur by death, removal or other cause the same shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment of the Governor. Said directors shall hold their office until their successors shall be elected and qualified, but not more than two of them shall be from the same county."

Chapter 306, Section II, Public Laws of 1925, amending Section five thousand, eight hundred and eight-nine of the Consolidated Statutes—"Directors; terms; vacancies":

"The North Carolina School for the Deaf, at Morganton, shall be under the control and management of a board of trustees consisting of seven (7) members. The terms of the said trustees shall be for four years, from the date of the appointment. The Governor shall transmit to the Senate at the next session of the General Assembly the names of his appointees for confirmation."

SELECTING THE SITE

This very interesting procedure in the history of the school is well worth recording in detail, so we quote from the pen of Prof. M. H. Holt, a member of the first Board of Directors, who edited a brief sketch of the school for the KELLY MESSENGER, in November 1896, as follows: "My strong personal interest, the interest I had felt as a disinterested spectator and observer, if any patriot can be called disinterested, was intensified when I was informed by one of my Guilford county friends, a member of the Legislature of 1891, that I had been elected as one of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina School for the Deaf and Dumb which had been established by that body and located at Morganton. The bill had been passed and an appropriation of \$20,000 made to materialize the project